

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An assembly, comprising:
a tubular element having a longitudinal axis and at least one slot;
at least one panel; and
at least one pair of fixing elements configured for being mounted on the tubular element, at least one of the fixing elements comprising at least two fixing tabs configured for engaging in said at least one slot of the tubular element, the two fixing tabs being offset along said longitudinal axis of the tubular element when the at least one of the fixing elements is mounted on the tubular element,
wherein the pair of fixing elements and the panel are configured to enable the panel to be held between the fixing elements, the fixing elements being disposed on either side of the ~~panel~~; panel,
each fixing tab being configured in such a manner that, when it is inserted in the corresponding slot of the tubular element, the fixing element comprising this tab can pivot relative to the tubular element, between a first position, in which the fixing element is angularly spaced apart from the panel which is positioned against the other fixing element, and a second position, in which the fixing element bears against the panel, and
each fixing tab having a bearing surface suitable for bearing against one inside wall of the tubular element, in such a manner that the fixing tab can engage in the slot only in the first position, and that the assembly is locked in the second position.
2. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the fixing elements has a face for bearing against one side of the panel.
3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the tubular element has a cross-section with a not completely closed contour.

5. (Original) An assembly according to claim 4, wherein the tubular element has a plurality of slots enabling at least two pairs of fixing elements to be fixed side by side.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein each of the fixing elements has an opening, and the panel has a orifice, and wherein said openings and said orifice are configured so as to define a passage for the shank of a screw co-operating with a nut.

8. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the fixing elements comprises a setback capable of receiving at least one of a nut and the head of a screw.

9. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 8, further comprising at least one plug configured to be capable of engaging in the setback so as to cover the at least one of the nut and the head of the screw.

10. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein each of the fixing elements is generally in the form of a half-shell.

11. (Currently Amended) A fixing element for assembling a tubular element and a panel together, the fixing element comprising:

at least one fixing tab suitable for engaging in a slot of the tubular element;

an opening allowing a screw shank to pass through for holding the panel; and

a face for pressing against one side of the panel, said face comprising

stiffening ribs, said stiffening ribs being configured in the face for bearing against the side of the panel when the panel is assembled with the fixing ~~element~~, element,

each fixing tab being configured in such a manner that, when it is inserted in the corresponding slot of the tubular element, the fixing element can pivot relative to the tubular element, between a first position, in which the fixing element is angularly spaced apart from the panel, and a second position, in which the fixing element bears against the panel, and

each fixing tab having a bearing surface suitable for bearing against one inside wall of the tubular element, in such a manner that the fixing tab can engage in the slot only in the first position, and that the fixing element is locked against the tubular element in the second position.

12. (Previously Presented) A tubular element for an assembly according to claim 1, the tubular element having four slots disposed in a checkerboard configuration when observed in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tubular element.

13. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 8, wherein the setback has a depth that ensures that the at least one of the nut and the head of the screw is received completely in the setback.

14. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 2, wherein said face has stiffening ribs.

15. (Currently Amended) An assembly, comprising:
a tubular element having at least one slot;
at least one panel; and
at least one pair of fixing elements not made integrally with the panel and configured for being mounted on the tubular element, at least one of the fixing elements comprising two fixing tabs both for engaging in at least one slot of the tubular element,

wherein the pair of fixing elements and the panel are configured to enable the panel to be held between the fixing elements, the fixing elements being disposed entirely on either side of the ~~panel~~ panel,

each fixing tab being configured in such a manner that, when it is inserted in the corresponding slot of the tubular element, the fixing element comprising this tab can pivot relative to the tubular element, between a first position, in which the fixing element is angularly spaced apart from the panel which is positioned against the other fixing element, and a second position, in which the fixing element bears against the panel, and

each fixing tab having a bearing surface suitable for bearing against one inside wall of the tubular element, in such a manner that the fixing tab can engage in the slot only in the first position, and that the assembly is locked in the second position.

16. (Currently Amended) An assembly, comprising:

a tubular element being circularly cylindrical and comprising at least one slot;

at least one panel;

at least one pair of fixing elements not made integrally with the panel and configured for being mounted on the tubular element, at least one of the fixing elements comprising at least one fixing tab for engaging in said at least one slot of the tubular element,

wherein the pair of fixing elements and the panel are configured to enable the panel to be held between the fixing elements, the fixing elements being situated on either side of the panel without touching each ~~other~~ other,

each fixing tab being configured in such a manner that, when it is inserted in the corresponding slot of the tubular element, the fixing element comprising this tab can pivot relative to the tubular element, between a first position, in which the fixing element is angularly spaced apart from the panel which is positioned against the other fixing element, and a second position, in which the fixing element bears against the panel, and

each fixing tab having a bearing surface suitable for bearing against one inside wall of the tubular element, in such a manner that the fixing tab can engage in the slot only in the first position, and that the assembly is locked in the second position.